

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 07 1977

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TELETYPE

PAGE 01

SAN SA 00593 080009Z

ACTION ARA-10

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
INRE-00 SSO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 FBIE-00 USSS-00 PRS-01
SS-15 L-03 DHA-02 COME-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /072 W

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POLITICAL MATTERS

EL SALVADOR

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3314

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

DIA WASHDC

EX-113

~~SECRET~~ SAN SALVADOR 0593

REC-19

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1 & 2

TAGS: PINS, ES

SUBJECT: POMA REMAINS MISSING DESPITE COMPLIANCE WITH
KIDNAPERS' DEMANDS

REF: SALVADOR 0415 (NOTAL)

FEB 8 1977

1. REMTEL DESCRIBED THE JANUARY 27 KIDNAPPING OF ~~ROBERTO POMA~~,
PRESIDENT OF THE SALVADORAN TOURIST INSTITUTE AND SON OF WEALTHY
SAN SALVADORAN FAMILY. THE POMA FAMILY, WHICH HAS NEGOTIATED
DIRECTLY WITH THE KIDNAPPERS AND IS THE ONLY SOURCE OF FACTUAL
INFORMATION AS TO WHAT IS OCCURRING, HAS NOW CONTACTED THE EMBASSY
SEEKING ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE. THIS DECISION WAS MADE BECAUSE:
(1) THE FAMILY FULLY COMPLIED WITH TWO STIFF RANSOM DEMANDS;
(2) FIVE DAYS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE THE FINAL DEMAND WAS MET AND POMA
HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED; AND (3) ALL CONTACT HAS BEEN LOST WITH THE
KIDNAPPERS.

2. FROM THE INFORMATION GIVEN TO THE EMBASSY BY THE POMA FAMILY,
IT IS CLEAR THAT: (1) THE KIDNAPPING IS THE WORK OF THE ~~PEOPLE'S~~
REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (ERP), A LEFTIST TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; (2)

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THIS GROUP WAS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR SEVERAL PREVIOUS KIDNAPPINGS;
(3) THE GROUP, ALTHOUGH SALVADORAN, HAS INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS;
(4) IT HAS THE WILL AND CAPABILITIES TO EXECUTE FURTHER ACTS OF
POLITICAL TERRORISM; (5) IT NOW HAS ENORMOUS SUMS OF MONEY WITH
WHICH IT INTENDS TO CONVERT EL SALVADOR INTO A "LITTLE ARGENTINA".

3. THE EMBASSY IS CONVINCED FROM THE NATURE OF THE INFORMATION THAT
THE ERP IS WHAT IT PURPORTS TO BE. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IN THE U.S.
NATIONAL INTEREST TO USE THE INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE POMAS TO
LOOK INTO

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CHIEF IN INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE CASE. THE FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE POMA KIDNAPPING.

4. POMA WAS AMBUSHED AND TAKEN FROM HIS CAR AT 9:30 A.M. JAN 27. FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER, TWO MEN AND A WOMAN VISITED THE HOME OF A POMA COMPANY OFFICER AND LEFT AN ENVELOPE FROM THE ERP WITH THE FIRST DEMAND. THIS COMMUNICATION, ACCORDING TO THE POMAS, WAS EXTREMELY WELL WRITTEN AND DETAILED IN ITS INSTRUCTIONS. THE DEMAND WAS THAT THE GOES RELEASE TWO POLITICAL

PRISONERS - RODOLFO MARIANO JIMENEZ VEGA AKA MARCELO, AND ANA GUADALUPE MARTINEZ AKA JOSEFINA, IN CUSTODY SINCE MID-1976. THE POMAS COMMUNICATED THIS DEMAND TO PRESIDENT MOLINA.

AFTER CONSULTING WITH HIS SENIOR MILITARY ADVISORS, OUT OF CONSIDERATION FOR ROBERTO POMA'S WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT, AND ON THE CONDITION THAT THE PRISONER DEAL NOT BE MADE PUBLIC, THE GOVERNMENT RELEASED THE PRISONERS INTO THE CUSTODY OF THE POMA FAMILY. WITHIN 24 HOURS, FOLLOWING THE KIDNAPPER'S DEMANDS TO THE LETTER, THE TWO RELEASED PRISONERS LEFT SALVADOR JANUARY 29 ON IBERIA FLIGHT 944. THEIR ULTIMATE DESTINATION WAS ALGERIA VIA MADRID. THE RELEASES WERE GIVEN TICKETS VALID FOR EL SALVADOR - MADRID-ALGIERS-MADRID, PLUS 5000 DOLLARS POCKET MONEY.

A MEMBER OF THE POMA FAMILY DR. ALBERTO SELVA, ACCOMPANIED THEM TO ALGERIA. DURING THE 24 HOURS THE RELEASED PRISONERS WERE IN POMA FAMILY CUSTODY, AND DURING THE FLIGHT TO ALGERIA AND THE STAY IN THE ALGERIAN HOTEL, JIMENEZ VEGA AND MARTINEZ DIVULGED A GREAT DEAL OF INFORMATION ABOUT THEMSELVES AND THE MOVEMENT THEY REPRESENT. FIRST, THEY TOOK CREDIT FOR TWO PREVIOUS

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KIDNAPPINGS IN EL SALVADOR- THE FRANCISCO DE SOLA CASE IN JULY 1975 (SAN SALVADOR 2717) AND A PREVIOUSLY UNHERALDED KIDNAPPING OF JOSE DAVID ESCOBAR VIDES ON DEC 2, 1974. THE TWO TERRORISTS ALSO TOLD OF HOW THEIR ORGANIZATION HOPED TO PROVOKE THE GOES, PARTICULARLY THE INCOMING REGIME OF GENERAL ROMERO, INTO HARSH REPRESSIVE ACTS. THEY SAID THE NEXT THREE YEARS ARE CRITICAL IN THE ERP'S PLAN IN WHICH THEY HOPE TO PROVOKE GOVERNMENT REPRESSION BY FURTHER ACTS OF POLITICAL SUBVERSION AND TERROR. THEY MENTIONED THAT FUTURE KIDNAPPINGS WILL INCLUDE PURELY POLITICAL TARGETS.

5. THE TERRORISTS ARRIVED IN ALGERIA ON AN IBERIA FLIGHT AT 5:45 P.M. ON JANUARY 31. THEIR DESTINATION WAS THE HOTEL AURASSI, AVENIDA F. FANON, TELEPHONE: 60-3418 AND 64-8252. WITH THE POMA FAMILY MEMBER PRESENT, THEY RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM MEXICO DURING THE NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 1. THE MEXICO CALL WAS APPARENTLY PART OF A COMMUNICATION MECHANISM TO VERIFY THEIR ARRIVAL IN ALGERIA.

6. SOMETIME AFTER THE FIRST NOTE WAS DELIVERED, BUT BEFORE THE TERRORISTS WERE RELEASED, THE FAMILY RECEIVED A CASSETTE TAPE. IN IT, POMA TOLD THE FAMILY OF HIS PREDICAMENT, THAT HE WAS WOUNDED AND RECEIVING MEDICAL ATTENTION.

7. ON FEBRUARY 1, AFTER CONFIRMATION THAT THE TWO TERRORISTS WERE IN ALGIERS, THE FAMILY RECEIVED A SECOND WRITTEN DEMAND NOTE FROM THE KIDNAPPERS, DELIVERED BY THE SAME THREE MESSENGERS. THIS NOTE GAVE INTRICATE INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO COMPLY WITH A SECOND DEMAND; PAYMENT OF THE EQUIVALENT OF 12

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ILLION DOLLARS. THE MESSAGE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A SCRAWLED NOTE
FROM POMA IN WHICH HE APOLOGIZED FOR WRITING WITH HIS LEFT
HAND SINCE HIS RIGHT ARM WAS PARALYZED. THE KIDNAPPERS DEMANDED
THE MONEY BE PAID IN FOUR CURRENCIES - 25 PERCENT IN U.S. GREEN,
SOME 50PERCENT IN SALVADORAN COLONES AND THE REST IN NICARAGUAN
CORDOBAS AND GUATEMALAN QUETZALES.

THE FAMILY OBTAINED THE EXACT COMBINATION OF CURRENCIES AND
DENOMINATIONS AND WITHIN 24 HOURS MET THIS SECOND DEMAND.

8. THE MONEY WAS TURNED OVER ON FEB 2. THE FAMILY HAS HEARD

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NOTHING SINCE. IN PREVIOUS KIDNAPPINGS IN EL SALVADOR THE VICTIMS HAVE BEEN RELEASED SHORTLY AFTER THE DEMANDS WERE MET. THE FAMILY BELIEVES EITHER POMA IS DEAD OR IN SUCH BAD PHYSICAL SHAPE THAT THE KIDNAPPERS ARE AFRAID TO MOVE AND/OR RELEASE HIM.

9. THE POMAS ARE IN A BOX. THEY HAVE COMPLIED WITH ALL DEMANDS TO THE LETTER. THEY KNOW ROBERTO IS BADLY WOUNDED AND IN NEED OF GOOD MEDICAL ATTENTION. THEY FEAR HIS DEATH, BUT CAN ONLY SIT AND AWAIT A FURTHER COMMUNICATION. THEY REALIZE THAT THE TWO TERRORISTS IN ALGERIERS WERE THEIR ONLY CONTACT WITH THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE THEIR SON.

10. ACTION REQUESTED: THE EMBASSY IS NOW CONVINCED THAT THE ERP THOUGH PROBABLY FEW IN NUMBERS, IS A DANGEROUS AND WELL-ORGANIZED SUBVERSIVE PRESENCE IN EL SALVADOR. WE FURTHER BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE IN OUR INTERESTS TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTION WE CAN TO NEUTRALIZE ITS FUTURE TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. THE EMBASSY THEREFORE REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER US AGENCIES TO UTILIZE THE FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO THE INFO ADDRESSES TO RELOCATE AND PLACE UNDER SURVEILLANCE JIMENEZ VEGA AND MARTINEZ, AND TO DEVELOP WHATEVER OTHER INFORMATION THEY MIGHT UNCOVER. FROM THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE INFORMATION WE ALREADY HAVE, THE EMBASSY IS CONVINCED THAT COOPERATION WITH THE POMA FAMILY IS APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY.

PLEASE ADVISE ASAP.

L'OZANO

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 15 1977

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Mignola
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ACTION MCT-01

Political Matters
El Salvador

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SY-05 FBIE-00 USSS-00 DHA-02
SCA-01 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 JUSE-00 PM-04
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SCS-03 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /052 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3389

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

~~SECRET~~ SAN SALVADOR 0742

EO. 11652 CDS

TAGS: PINS, ES

SUBJECT: POMA KIDNAPPING - GOES REQUEST FOR USG ASSISTANCE

5 - Bernice Khan
pls file in
109-12-226 index
STX
LAB

REFS: (A) STATE 030032, (B) STATE 029001, (C) SAN

SALVADOR 0593, (D) SAN SALVADOR 0661

55 FEB 28 1977

NOT RECORDED
FEB 28 1977

1. THE AMBASSADOR CARRIED OUT THE INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTELS (A) AND (B) BY INFORMING THE POMA FAMILY, ON TWO OCCASIONS (2/10 TO THE FAMILY LAWYER AND 2/11 TO ROBERTO POMA'S FATHER AND BROTHER), THAT THE USG COULD NOT ASSIST, NOR CONSIDER ASSISTING, IN ANY INVESTIGATION INVOLVING A NON-U.S. PRIVATE CITIZEN VICTIM OF A KIDNAPPING OUTSIDE U.S. TERRITORY UNLESS AND UNTIL IT RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM THE INTERESTED GOVERNMENT.

2. DURING CONVERSATION WITH LUIS POMA, ROBERTO'S FATHER, HE MENTIONED THAT THE VICTIM'S SIX-YEAR OLD DAUGHTER WAS A U.S. CITIZEN, BORN IN CALIFORNIA. HE ASKED IF THIS FACT COULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN DETERMINING A USG RESPONSE TO ANY GOES REQUEST FOR HELP.

3. ON 2/14 THE PRESIDENT, MINDEF AND FORMIN MET THE AMBASSADOR TO DISCUSS SEVERAL OTHER MATTERS (REPORTED SEPTELS). THE PRESIDENT BROACHED THE POMA MATTER BY DESCRIBING GOES INVOLVEMENT IN THE RELEASE OF TWO PRISONERS, HIS GOVERNMENT'S

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INCAPACITY TO INVESTIGATE BEYOND SALVADORAN FRONTIERS, AND A SUGGESTION RECEIVED FROM LUIS POMA THAT THE USG MIGHT LEND ASSISTANCE. PRESIDENT MOLINA SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME AND APPRECIATE ANY ASSISTANCE THE USG COULD PROVIDE IN THIS MATTER.

4. COMMENT: GIVEN THE PROVEN CAPABILITIES AND INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS OF THE ERP; THE PROMINENCE (PRESIDENT OF THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT TOURIST AGENCY) AND AMERICAN CITIZEN CONNECTION OF THE VICTIM; AND THE REQUEST FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR ALL APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT THE USG RESPOND FAVORABLY AND INITIATE ACTION ASAP. PLEASE ADVISE.

LOZANO